

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Method to produce an austenitic alloy, the method comprising coating an austenitic substrate alloy with at least one layer of a composition having an of higher Al content of at least 75% by weight, wherein the austenitic substrate alloy has the following composition (in % by weight):

20-70 % of Ni,

15-27 % of Cr,

0-5 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,

0-2 % of Si,

0-3 % of Mn,

0-2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.1 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM)

balance Fe and normally occurring impurities,

wherein the substrate is at a temperature between 100° C and 600° C during the coating,

wherein the Al content of the resulting austenitic alloy is 4.5 to 12% by weight, and

wherein the layer of a composition having an Al content of at least 75% by weight is in direct contact with the austenitic substrate alloy.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claims [[1 or]] 2 or 15, wherein at least one layer is aluminium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claims [[1 or]] 2 or 15, wherein at least one layer is an aluminium-based alloy.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim [[1]] 2, in which the one layer of a composition having an Al content of at least 75% by weight has aluminium-based alloy is Al having 0.5 to 25 % by weight of Si.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claims [[1 or]] 2 or 15, wherein the method results in the following composition (in % by weight):

0-0.2 % of C,

0-0.1 % of N,

25-70 % of Ni,

15-25 % of Cr,

4.5-12 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,

0-4 % of Si,
0-3 % of Mn,
0-2 % of Nb,
0-0.5 % of Ti,
0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,
0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM),
balance Fe and normally occurring impurities.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Austenitic alloy with an Al content of 4.5-12 % by weight, wherein it is manufacturable by the method according to claims [[1 or]] 2 or 15.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The austenitic alloy according to claim 7, wherein the austenitic alloy is used in a high temperature application.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The austenitic alloy according to claim 8, wherein the high temperature application is a supporting material in a catalytic converter.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The austenitic alloy according to claim 8, wherein the high temperature application is a resistive heater.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claims [[1 or]] 2 or 15, wherein the temperature of the austenitic substrate alloy is between 150° C and 450° C during the coating.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the resulting Al content is 5.5-12 % by weight.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 6, wherein Al is 5.5-12 % by weight.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 6, wherein rare earth metals (REM) include Ce, La, and Sm.

Claim 15 (New): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 2, wherein the coating of the at least one layer of a composition having an Al content of at least 75% by weight is by PVD.